CHARLES R. DREW POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL

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OFFICE OF THE DEAN

The Charles R. Drew Postgraduate Medical School is the educational partner of the Los Angeles County-Martin Luther King, Jr. General Hospital. It was founded in 1966 by the Drew Medical Society (Los Angeles Chapter of the National Medical Association) and the UCLA and USC Schools of Medicine. A 19-member Board of Directors governs the Drew School, with representation from the three founding groups, the immediate and Los Angeles communities and the national community.

The initial recruitment of faculty and assembly of the School were supported by a federal grant to the Watts-Willowbrook Regional Medical Program. This award was unique in RMP history. In making the award, the California Committee on Regional Medical Programs recognized that the health status of this community could not be improved without a total realignment of the resources. The Drew School, situated IN the community, can support these resources: teaching hospital, community-focused health care system and manpower development.

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The Drew School comprises 11 clinical departments. Our responsibilities are to provide patient care, graduate education of interns and residents, the continuing education of community health professionals, and the training of allied health professionals. A faculty of more than 60 full-time medical and dental specialists has been recruited as of April, 1973.

Of import nationally and locally is the responsibility of the Department of Community Medicine to stimulate and organize a rational health services system for the King Hospital service area. The development of such a model system, endorsed fully by the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, will provide comprehensive health services that are adaptable to the needs of the nearly 500,000 residents here.

The people we serve are preponderantly black and have been deprived of most social and economic benefits. More than half the population is under age 25. Unemployment is appallingly high; public transportation and other services are constrained. By every measurement, the people we serve have had less opportunity for independence and growth than others in this region. Their health status reflects these inequities.

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The Drew School is committed to serve this citizenry with quality medical services -- in an environment where community participation is essential for genuine fulfillment. We have given high priority to establishing a Faculty of Allied Health Sciences, readying community residents for purposeful employment in a growing national industry. Similarly, we have pledged that the traditional tasks of medical schools -- education, patient care and research -- shall derive their substance from the primacy of community service.

Each Drew School department is affiliated with one but not both local medical schools (UCLA, USC). These affiliations assure concurrent appointments in the affiliating university, by which Drew School faculty retain the same prerogatives, privileges and responsibilities as other university faculty.

The first unit of King Hospital opened for patient care and educational training in March, 1972. The campus plan now includes an acute unit which could grow from 470 to 760 beds by 1976; a Community Mental Health Center-Mental Retardation Unit, ultimately comprising 148 beds; an intern-resident residence to accommodate more than 200 house staff; a Clinical Sciences Building for

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patient-oriented research activities; a Faculty of Allied Health Sciences building; a child care and development center; and facilities to house the faculty, basic research laboratories, library and other learning resources of the Drew School and the community.

Plans for this latter facility is one of the end-products of a Master Plan Study commissioned by the Drew School, which was conducted from May 1971 - April 1973. The Drew School is engaged in a master planning study to define institutional goals and objectives in light of community, regional and national commitments. The study is attempting to raise and answer critical questions concerning the School's relationships and destiny, including the possible growth into an undergraduate medical school.

Since July, 1971, the primary funding source for faculty is the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, through a contractual arrangement patterned after existing County contracts between UCLA and USC and the affiliated County hospitals. Additional support from the County will be derived by participation in the training of allied health personnel. The School is securing additional support from Federal, State, and private sources. For example, the Drew School has received the first grant in California extending the MEDEX program to train independent duty military corpsmen as physician's assistants.

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Projects to assist foster home parents, to train psychiatrists for dealing with problems found in disadvantaged communities, to investigate the "lazy leukocyte syndrome," and many others have already began.

The Drew School is pursuing health as a societal goal rather than treating disease as recurring crises. Our mandate is to engage the unwieldly tools of a medical center to uplift the spirit and life style of this community as part of its health aspirations.

The Drew School is adapting the traditional priorities of education, patient care, and research to serve foremost the needs of the community. This is not, we maintain, incompatible with the mission of the university and its obligations to society.

The brightest and most resourceful academicians are joining us to comprise a multiracial faculty. The nation, persons of all ethnic and cultural origins, should be able to discern something of themselves in the Drew School -- and to recognize it as an instrument of healing and reconciliation, modality to advance and create knowledge, and a focus of national purpose.

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April 25, 1973

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